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OCT 10 2001

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18 MS. ABBY JOHNSON: If we could go off record for

19 a moment as I have a question before I start.

20 (Discussion off the record.)

21 MS. ABBY JOHNSON: Okay. My name is Abby

22 Johnson, A-B-B-Y, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

23 The first thing I need to do is to read some

24 comments from other people who came this afternoon but

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1 were unable to stay and I'll be able to give you the

2 written copy after I'm done.

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15 MS. ABBY JOHNSON: Abby Johnson. The other  
16 point I want to make, and this is as the nuclear waste  
17 advisor to Eureka County, concerns the tremendous  
18 challenge that we have as a county trying to get accurate,  
19 timely information about these hearings out to this  
20 community and to residents of the county as a whole.

21 I have some examples of the kinds of things that  
22 we've gone through.

23 I know that there was a concern of some people  
24 said, oh, yeah, right, there's really going to be a

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1 hearing tonight, because there have been so many changes  
2 since the hearings were announced. Not the 29  
3 mini-hearings but the three other hearings.

4 We had the location change for the Las Vegas  
5 hearing on September 5 from the Sun Coast to the DOE  
6 facility. We had already sent out information that the  
7 Las Vegas hearing was at the Sun Coast in case people  
8 wanted to drive since there was no hearing locally.

9 Then we did this little flyer which we -- I  
10 forget if we mailed it out or posted it around when the  
11 DOE changed the hearing site and added the Elko video

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12 site. So he we wanted to let people know that they could  
13 go to Elko.

14 Then we were informed that there would be a  
15 video conferencing opportunity here in Crescent Valley for  
16 one of the hearings, the Amargosa Valley hearing or the  
17 Pahrump hearing. So we did a flyer regarding that.

18 And then this didn't change because of  
19 September 11. This changed because of how awkward the Las  
20 Vegas hearing had been and the DOE canceled the video  
21 conferencing opportunities for the effected counties. So  
22 that was off.

23 So then we had to tell people, no, that's not  
24 happening, don't come on September 13th. Then there were  
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1 the mini-hearings which we really didn't have time to do  
2 much except posters because of the short notice.

3 And then in my mail box yesterday I learned that  
4 the written comments address has changed from the address  
5 that was in the Federal Register that has been put out all  
6 over the place to a different address for written comments  
7 to be sent to the Department of Energy.

8 So if people are a little confused and if people  
9 aren't showing up in the numbers that you would expect for

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10 people who really care about an issue, you can see there  
11 are some reasons and that counties like Eureka who really  
12 make the effort to keep the public informed and have hired  
13 someone who that's one of the things I do well, are pretty  
14 baffled by how one responds after these constant changes,  
15 not related to September 11. None of this is related to  
16 September 11.

17       So I just want to make it clear that we've been  
18 trying our best to keep hour residents informed but it's  
19 very, very difficult if you look at the paper that has  
20 come from DOE and the number of changes there have been,  
21 our good faith efforts have been very difficult.

22       Thank you.